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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Max Segerljung

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EXAMINER

MCGOWAN, JAMIE LOUISE

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/521,142	Applicant(s) SEGERLJUNG, MAX	
	Examiner JAMIE L. MCGOWAN	Art Unit 3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 18-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 18-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Godbersen (5,950,735) in view of Bauer et al. (3,672,521).

Regarding claim 1, Godbersen discloses a coupling device comprising:

- A device for attaching a working tool to a work machine
- An engagement between the parts utilizing gravity (column 4 lines 20-24)
- The male type engagement means (34) having external surfaces (52,53) converging towards each other (See Fig 4)
- A female type engagement means (36) having internal surfaces (101,102) converging towards each other to receive and hold the male type engagement means (column 4 lines 20-24)
- Said external converging surfaces substantially in the direction of convergence against said internal converging surfaces into a fixed position in which they fit tightly together (See Fig 4)
- The two parts locked together with a recess (106) in the surface of one part and a wedge element (76) movably arranged on the second part
- A means for inserting the wedge element (76) in the recess (106) so the wedge surfaces are pressed against the recesses walls and locking the wedge element (76) non-movably in the recess (106)

- A resilient means (94) acting on the wedge element (76) to press the wedge element (76) into the recess (106) during biasing of said resilient means by said inserting means in the locked position

While Godbersen discloses the device as described above, it fails to disclose that the spring is compressed when the wedge is in the extended position. Like Godbersen, Bauer et al. also discloses a quick coupler device using a wedge/spring biasing mechanism. Unlike Godbersen, Bauer et al. discloses that a toggle device can be used that moves the wedge into the extended position by moving a handle that causes a spring (33) to be compressed (See Figure 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a simple substitution of the biasing mechanism of Godbersen with the biasing mechanism of Bauer et al. as both biasing mechanisms are known in the art and the substitution would provide predictable results.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the wedge element (76) is designed to fit against and influence the internal walls (Fig 16) of the recess in such a direction that the part provided with the recess is pressed with its engagement means having surfaces converging towards each other into an engagement making direction (column 6 line 64 through column 7 line 5). When the plunger reaches the opening (106) it springs through the opening (106) and biases the male part (34) into a locked position with the female part (36).

Regarding claims 3 and 16, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that engagement means comprises a controllable power means (93) for transferring locking arrangement between an inactive position and an active position with the wedge element (76) pushed into the recess (106) and held during pre-loading (column 5 lines 18-34).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the locking arrangement comprises a dead center defining means (92) connected to the wedge element (76), and the power means (93) are designed to influence said dead center (92) defining means to transfer the wedge element (76) from an inactive position to an active position located on the opposite side of a dead center, in which the resilient member is solely responsible for holding the wedge element (76) in the recess (106).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the recess (106) is a through hole (See Fig 16).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the wedge element (76) is on the male part (34) and the recess (106) is on the female part (36).

Regarding claims 7 and 18-20, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the first engagement means on the male part (34) has an external, substantially planar, large surface part (planar surface edges of parts 63,64, and 66) arranged to fit against an internal substantially planar large surface part (105) on the second engagement means of the female part (36).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the large planar surface part on the male part (34) is arranged to be directed substantially opposite to the direction for nearing the female part (36) to the male part (34) for attachment.

Regarding claim 9, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. the female part (36) has two opposing walls (101,102) that converge towards each other, which laterally restrict a channel directed substantially vertically in the normal position of the

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male part (34) when attached to the female part (36) and form said converging internal surfaces.

Regarding claim 10, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the converging channel walls (101,102) form opposing boundaries (Fig 4) on the substantially planar support surface (105) that forms the bottom of the channel.

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the female part (36) has a planar surface part lying opposite to said large planar surface part (105) and converging towards the latter to form said converging internal surfaces together therewith (See Fig 6 below).

Regarding claim 12, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the female part comprises two other walls (105 and planar surface lying opposite to 105 – See Fig 6 below) which at least partly restrict the channel and extend substantially perpendicularly relative to the firstly mentioned walls and converge towards each other to form said converging internal surfaces.

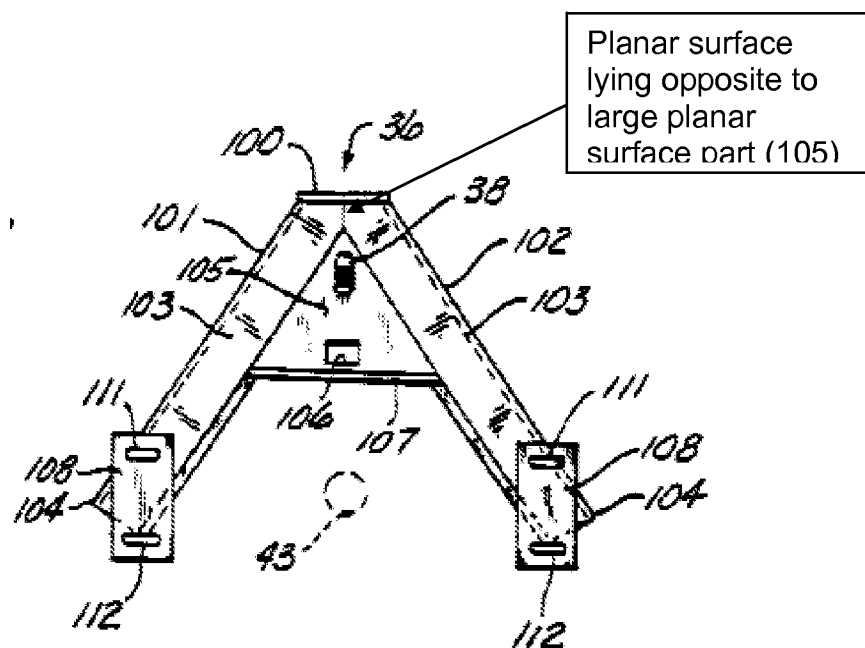


Fig. 6

Regarding claim 13, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the female part (36) has an opening intended, to be turned towards the other part during the engagement operation in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the direction of convergence of this engagement means' converging surfaces to facilitate the insertion of the male part in the female part (See Fig 4).

Regarding claim 14, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the female type engagement means is formed from a flanged metal sheet (Fig 4).

Regarding claim 15, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the female-type engagement means is arranged on the first part with upwardly converging internal surfaces and the male-type engagement means is arranged on the second part with upwardly converging external surfaces (See Fig 4).

Regarding claim 21, the combination of Godbersen and Bauer et al. discloses that the inserting means comprises a toggle joint (Bauer et al. – 51) arranged between said resilient means and wedge element (Bauer et al. - Figure 6) to simultaneously extend said wedge element and bias said resilient means in a locked position.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 and 18-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMIE L. MCGOWAN whose telephone number is

(571)272-5064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on (571)272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thomas B Will/
Supervisory Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 3671

Jamie L. McGowan
February 29, 2008